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October 2002

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Steps for Literacy

By Sarah Dalton
Connection Editor

In the spirit of the American Dream, Ron Rinehart recreated himself about 20 years ago when he told a community college counselor that he could not read. With that first step, Rinehart embarked on the road to a life rich in critical thought, literacy's greatest gift.

On September 23, Rinehart, as part of his project *Steps for Literacy*, began walking from the California State Library in Sacramento to the Fresno County Public Library. Through a series of walks, Rinehart is showing the California public how a determined individual can reach a goal, such as learning to read, by putting one foot in front of the other. The 2002 walk is just a test-run: in 2004 Rinehart will walk from the Fresno County Public Library to the New York Public Library.

Fresno County Public Library Director and Library of California board member, John Kallenberg, among other library leaders, believes that Rinehart's *Steps* underscores the principles of the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) program. Before Rinehart started out, Kallenberg said "Rinehart is testing his physical endurance in the same way he [Rinehart] tested his knowledge of language ... I'm confident that he'll be successful here. He's bringing a heightened awareness of the role of literacy in the workplace, community and family." As a result, Kallenberg helped coordinate Rinehart's contacts with local libraries.

Carla Lehn, literacy consultant at the California State Library, reports that 110 library jurisdictions provide literacy services through the CLLS, for which the California State Library is the administrative arm and which the Library of California oversees. "Rinehart's story is one that librarians in the field hear every day," says Lehn.

"Everyone who has worked in literacy service knows that Rinehart is far from alone." The professionals agree that Rinehart's story, his humility and determination, will inspire others to seek help for their illiteracy at local libraries.

Before he learned to read, Rinehart memorized (Dept. of Motor Vehicles tests, job applications and speeches) to get by. In the years since, Rinehart has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and has come to see that the moment he sought help with his reading was the turning point in his life. Last January, while reading *Around the World in 80 Days* with his children, Rinehart, at a bedtime ritual so many take for granted, decided he needed "to do something overwhelming." And so *Steps for Literacy* came to be.



**"Before I could read, my
primary source of
information was the
television or family members.
I had no true convictions.
Now that I can read, I can
form my own convictions, not
just repeat what someone
else has told me. I am free."**

- Ron Rinehart

*Ron Rinehart
stretches on the
steps of the
California State
Library before
walking to the
Fresno Library*



Nothing About Me Without Me: Planning for Library Services for people with disabilities

By Barbara Will

Library Programs Consultant
Library Development Services Bureau
California State Library

California State Librarian Dr. Kevin Starr has initiated a multi-year, multi-million dollar project to assist public libraries in improving their services to people with disabilities. "Libraries are for all people, all the time," he said. "More than one in every five Americans has a disability that limits his or her ability to benefit from traditional library services and resources, and we want non-traditional to become the tradition."

Funded by a federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant, the 31 public libraries participating in this project will work with their local communities to identify priorities for improving library services to people with disabilities in their communities along with developing the service plans to implement them.

A team from each public library will participate in three intensive training sessions and a "homework assignment" designed to further involve the local community in serving the needs of people with disabilities. The first training session will focus first on learning about the full range of potential disabilities from visual difficulties to physical limitations to learning difficulties, etc. Local teams will then convene a community forum to identify the prevailing disabilities in their local communities and the organizations or institutions currently providing services to these people. After choosing an initial disability focus, each library team will add an appropriate community partner to its team, either a person with that disability or a person who works with people having the identified disability.

The second training session for the library teams will be held in conjunction with the annual "Technology and Persons with Disabilities" conference in Los Angeles, sponsored by California State University, Northridge. Besides the experience of touring the massive exhibit halls, the public library teams will prepare the outline of their intended service programs. Teams will work with their communities to complete their plans, including budget cost estimates, when they return home.

At the final training session, teams will fine-tune their service programs and develop individual outcomes measures evaluation plans. Each library will receive a grant of \$20,000-\$50,000 to implement its program beginning in July 2003.

Based on the experiences of the first two years of effort, this project design will be revised as needed. At that time, the State Librarian plans to expand it to include other public libraries as well as other types of libraries in future years. Libraries recommended for funding in this project year are:

Alhambra Public Library
Benicia Public Library
Butte County Library
Commerce Public Library
Del Norte County Public Library
Fresno County Public Library
Glendale Public Library
Hemet Public Library
Humboldt County Library
Lake County Library
Long Beach Public Library
Los Angeles Public Library
Marin County Free Library
Mono County Free Library
Nevada County Library
Pasadena Public Library
Plumas County Library
Sacramento Public Library



San Bernardino County Library
San Bernardino Public Library
San Diego Public Library
Santa Cruz City-County Library
System

Sonoma County Library
South San Francisco Public Library
Stockton-San Joaquin County
Public Library
Sutter County Library
Torrance Public Library
Ventura County Library
Watsonville Public Library

The "Planning for Library Services for People with Disabilities" project is supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of LSTA, administered in California by the State Librarian.

For further information about this project, contact Barbara Will, library programs consultant, CSL, by phone at (916) 653-7071, or send an email to bwill@library.ca.gov.

Barbara Will and Carole Talan, CSL literacy consultant, wrote another article on the initiation of this project, which appeared in the June 2002 issue of *Connection*.



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New database of public library facilities in California!

By Richard Hall
*Library Bond Act Manager
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With the assistance of the Office of Library Construction, the Libris Design project has recently launched a new database of recently constructed public library facilities in the State of California. The database can be viewed at: <http://www.librisdesign.org/cgi-bin/plfca/search.cgi?Command=showall>.

In addition to extensive data regarding each project such as square footage, cost, volume capacity, population served, reader seats, technology stations, design team members, special features etc, the database also contains an image gallery which allows users to view pictures of both the exterior and interior of the building. This database will be of interest to library trustees, friends of the public library groups, and state and local governmental officials as well as librarians seeking information about public library buildings. Visitors will be able to take a "virtual tour" of recent public library facilities all over the state without having to leave their home or office.

The database can be searched and sorted by the city where the library is located, the date the facility was completed, the square footage as well as the construction and project costs. For example, if someone wanted to view all of the public libraries recently built around 10,000 square feet, the database would be sorted by square footage and the user could simply click on the projects that were approximately 10,000 square feet and be able to see the data available for each project.

Currently, there are about a dozen public library facilities in the database. Buildings are being added daily as project information is sent to the database administrator, Linda Demmers. Obviously, the more projects in the database, the more useful it will be to California's public library planners. Parties interested in having their recently constructed public library facility added to the database may provide their project data by filling out an easy one page on-line form accessible from the bottom of the database page on the Libris Design website.

Ten California libraries poised to receive LSTA grants for OM projects

By Rhea Rubin

Consultant
Oakland, California

Ten California public libraries have received approval from California State Librarian Dr. Kevin Starr to receive federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds for their library projects, which include implementing Outcomes Measurement (OM) in their evaluations. This means that these ten libraries must assess at least one impact that their individual library projects will have on their library users. The ten participating libraries recommended for funding are:

Library or Library System Name

Alameda County Library
Beaumont Library District
Butte County Library
Del Norte County Library District
Glendale Public Library
Monterey Park Public Library
(Bruggemeyer Memorial)
Newport Beach Public Library
Peninsula Library System (Infopeople)
San Diego County Public Law Library
Tuolumne County Library

Here is a sample of the exciting library services some of these projects plan to provide:

Alameda County Library. *Reciprocal Outreach Service*

This project will hire and train participants in the Hayward, Newark, Union City, and Fremont literacy programs to do outreach to potential adult learners. The idea is to encourage people to enroll in literacy programs in any of the Southern Alameda County libraries, rather than just in their hometown. Adult learners will be able to bypass waiting lists and select a program that is easiest for them to attend. The expected program outcome is that adult learners will enroll and participate in literacy services beyond their own city.

Tuolumne County Library.

Mobile Library and Literacy Lab

This will be the first modern mobile library service in the Mother Lode. A specially equipped vehicle will bring library and literacy services, including Internet access and library programs, to isolated residents every week. The project has identified two outcomes: 1) Rural residents will feel a stronger sense of belonging to the community, and 2) Parents and caregivers will read more to their children.

Del Norte County Library District. *Outreach Project*

An increased sense of community is an expected outcome of this project, which will establish basic library services in the isolated and rural communities of Smith River and Klamath so that residents do not need to travel to Crescent

City to use a library. Using donated space and trained volunteers, the community libraries will focus on serving Hispanic and Native American residents of Smith River, and on providing after-school programs in Klamath.

The Beaumont Library District. *Teen Connect*

Seniors and teens will pair up to mentor each other in this project. Seniors will learn and practice computer skills while teens receive homework assistance and practice computer skills. One of the expected program outcomes is that seniors and teens will develop intergenerational relationships that will result in more comfortable intergenerational dialogue and a change in attitude toward each other.

Glendale Public Library. *Senior Internet Training Videos*

Senior participants in this project will use videotaped instruction to reinforce computer concepts and skills learned in classes taught at the library. The expected outcomes are that seniors will increase their computer and Internet skills, will use library and home computers more often, and will access the Internet and library resources to attain self-identified goals.

The San Diego County Public Law Library.

Community Outreach and Education Project

Self-represented litigants (i.e. non-lawyer members of the public) will be trained in legal literacy in this project so that they can better prepare for court. This project will also offer training classes for public librarians on legal materials and when to refer patrons to the law library (SDCPLL), enhanced legal reference and research services at the SDCPLL, and outreach to other agencies and organizations about the services of the SDCPLL. One outcome of the project is that self-represented litigants who attend classes will improve their legal literacy skills.

All ten of these projects are very exciting, especially in the willingness of these libraries to test OM. What these libraries learn from using OM will benefit all California libraries as OM becomes a basic approach for evaluating most library programs.

The "Outcomes Measures Evaluation" project is supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of LSTA, administered in California by the State Librarian.

Other articles about the California State Library's implementation of OM have appeared in the April 2002 and July 2002 issues of *Connection*.

For further information about OM, contact Tom Andersen, assistant bureau chief, Library Development Services bureau, CSL, at (916) 653-7391 (phone), or tandersen@library.ca.gov (email).

LSTA grant-writing workshop is 'virtual' success in rural libraries

By Carla Lehn

Literacy Consultant
Library Development Services Bureau
California State Library

For library staff working in rural and smaller libraries in California, navigating through the federal grant funding process has been likened to squeezing money out of a rock. During the planning process for the Rural Initiative, a statewide initiative sponsored by California State Librarian Dr. Kevin Starr to develop library programs and services for rural libraries, rural librarians voiced their frustration in not being able to effectively compete with their larger library brethren for federal grant funds because of their inability to hire grant writers or develop innovative library projects that could be deemed of statewide significance.

To help rural libraries in their quest for Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant money, the California State Library's Rural Initiative launched "How to Be Successful in the LSTA Grants Process" to selected videoconferencing sites in rural areas of the state and via webcasting technology. The purpose of the two workshops, broadcast on Sept. 13 and Sept. 23, was to clarify the role of LSTA funding in California's libraries; to de-mystify the process involved in applying for LSTA grants; and to provide strategies for success through showcasing rural libraries that have successfully received LSTA funding.

Videoconference sites included the Ventura County Library, Nevada County Library, Mono County Office of Education, Mendocino Office of Education, Brawley Public Library, and Fresno City College. Participants at each site ranged from two to 17, plus webcasters from throughout the state who tuned in via the Internet.

In preparing for the workshops, CSL staff confirmed what many rural librarians have known for quite some time -- that, while many LSTA dollars have flowed to rural libraries through "targeted" grants such as the Youth Services Materials, Partnerships for Change, and Public Library Staff Education programs, few small or rural libraries have actually applied for and received individual LSTA grants. Two exceptions, however, have been the Blanchard-Santa Paula Library District and Lake County Library. Dan Robles, district librarian for the Blanchard-Santa Paula Library District, shared his success in obtaining an LSTA grant with workshop participants.

"Begin planning as far in advance as possible," he advised,



"to have enough time to consider all of its possibilities and ramifications, in light of 'small library' restrictions in staffing and time." He also told participants to ask for the ideal amount of money as long as the resources exist to see the project through.

Videoconference and webcast technology were chosen as the preferred method of delivery for the sessions to address another critical need identified through the Rural Initiative planning process: that long distances, rough terrain, or weather often prevent rural librarians from traveling to in-person workshops. Staffing patterns at rural libraries, also, often preclude participation because a staff person

cannot take one to two days off from work to travel to a half-day workshop. Another issue concerns those library staff who are "flying solo" at their libraries. For them, attending a workshop means closing the library during their absence.

"I think it's an excellent format. [It] allows for accessibility without driving great distances," said one participant.

Participants in the workshops appreciated the helpful information from the workshops, especially in learning that applying for LSTA grants was not as difficult as they originally assumed. The videoconferencing "experience," in years past a problem because of technological issues, also proved to be a boon for these two workshops.

"I never did a videoconference before. I found this surprisingly personal and present," said another participant.

The "How to Be Successful in the LSTA Grants Process" will be archived in the near future on the California State Library website at www.library.ca.gov/html/grants.html. It is part of CSL's "Rural Initiative," which is supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of LSTA, administered in California by the State Librarian.

Connection has published other articles about the "Rural Initiative" in the 2000 (July & Sept.) and 2001 (Feb., March, June, and July) issues.

For further information about this project or the Rural Initiative, contact Carla Lehn, (916) 653-7743 (phone), clehn@library.ca.gov (email). Questions about LSTA can be addressed to Jay Cunningham, LSTA program coordinator, CSL, at (916) 653-8112 (phone), jcunningham@library.ca.gov (email); or to Tom Andersen, assistant bureau chief, Library Development Services bureau, CSL, at (916) 653-7391 (phone), tandersen@library.ca.gov (email).



First series of 2002/2003 LSTA grants awarded to libraries

By Christopher Berger
*Library Development Services
California State Library*

From broadcasting Spanish educational programs using videoconferencing technology to Seniors roaring down the Information Highway; from California Native Americans listening to taped interviews of elder members of their tribe to getting answers to your questions online anytime, anyplace, anywhere. These are just a few examples of the library projects that California State Librarian Dr. Kevin Starr has approved to receive Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) awards. LSTA, a competitive federal grant program for libraries, will underwrite a total of 46 projects submitted by libraries and library systems throughout California for the 2002/2003 fiscal year at a total requested amount of nearly \$8 million.

The U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the federal agency responsible for overseeing LSTA, but state library agencies administer it at the state level. LSTA provides local assistance grants for resource sharing, multitype library networking, and targeted services to the underserved, disadvantaged, geographically isolated, or illiterate residents of this state. College and university, special (corporate, institutional, medical, legal, and others), school, and public libraries are all eligible for funding.

The amount of LSTA money requested for funding each

project runs the gamut from around \$8,000 to over \$1 million. The types of programs LSTA will fund include preservation and access to unique multicultural special collections, reference service, digitization of local history collections, lifelong learning programs using videoconferencing technology to broadcast educational programs in Spanish, and many others.

On July 31 of this year the California State Library sent its plan for using LSTA grant funds in the next five years to IMLS. This plan will cover the fiscal years 2002/2003 to 2006/2007. Library staff and patrons throughout California contributed valuable time and ideas to the creation of this document.

Information on each of the projects receiving LSTA grant awards will be available in the near future on the California State Library website (www.library.ca.gov/html/grants.html). You will be able to click on any of the links listed under the heading "LSTA Project Abstracts 2002-2003."

Connection recently ran a series of articles about LSTA in the March through August 2002 issues.

For further information about the LSTA program, contact Jay Cunningham, LSTA coordinator, CSL, at (916) 653-8112 (phone) or jcunningham@library.ca.gov (email); or contact Tom Andersen, Library Development Services assistant bureau chief, at (916) 653-7391 (phone) or tandersen@library.ca.gov (email).

California Library Association 2002 Conference coming to Sacramento in November

The California Library Association's (CLA) theme for its 2002 annual conference in Sacramento November 15 - 18 is *Building Our Strengths*. According to Anne Turner, the 2002 CLA president and the director of Santa Cruz Public Libraries, "California's library professionals will, in Sacramento, garner strategies and tools for on-the-job success."

Attendees at the CLA annual conference will learn how to better serve the public and increase their library's patronage but that's just the beginning. Members of California's library community will learn how to stay in the financial black; how to smoothly, and cost effectively, use new technologies and databases; and above all, how to take professional chances, to "experiment with new ideas while looking out for themselves

[ourselves],"Turner says.

Turner reports that "hundreds of vendors will be showing their wares." She says that the CLA conference is "an excellent chance for everyone to see what's new and what's good from publishers, in automation, security systems, and more."

Susan Negreen, the executive director, expects about 2000 people to attend the 2002 conference (up from 1800 in 2001). Negreen says that "tracks" will allow a library professional to quickly identify sessions that are useful to him or her based on his or her day-to-day job responsibilities.

For quick registration, and detailed information about, the 2002 CLA annual conference, please visit www.cla-net.org.

Training Corner

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *Library Construction 101*

Date and location:

Monday, October 28, San Francisco Public Library
<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/76>

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *To Turn the Computer Off, Press 'Start':
 Making Sense of Windows*

Date and location:

Thursday, October 10, 2002, California State Library
<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/66>

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *There's More to Web Research than Google!*

Dates and locations:

Friday, November 8, 2002, Cerritos Public Library
 Tuesday, November 12, 2002, San Francisco Public Library
<http://www.infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/102>

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *Business Resources on the Internet*

Date and location:

Friday, October 18, Los Angeles Public Library
<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/98>

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *Library Laws for the Web Environment
 (distance learning course)*

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/86>

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *Surfing the Curriculum: K-12 Internet Resources*

Dates and locations:

Tuesday, October 8, Cerritos Public Library
 Thursday, October 17, Sacramento County Office of Education
 Wednesday, October 30, Los Angeles Public Library
<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/88>

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *Teaching Spanish-Speaking Patrons
 How To Use The Internet*

Dates and locations:

Friday, October 25, Los Angeles Public Library
 Wednesday, November 20, San Jose Public Library
 Wednesday, December 11, Fresno County Public Library
<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/59>

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *Investing and Finance on the Internet*

Dates and locations:

Monday, October 21, San Francisco Public Library
 Monday, November 4, Cerritos Public Library
 Monday, November 18, California State Library
<http://www.infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/101>

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *Introduction to HTML using Homesite5*

Dates and locations:

Wednesday, October 16, San Francisco Public Library
 Tuesday, November 5, Cerritos Public Library
 Monday, November 18, San Jose Public Library
<http://www.infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/103>

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *Using Libris Design to Create Your
 Library Building Program*

Dates and location:

Tuesday and Wednesday, October 29 and 30
 California State Library
<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/43>

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *Computer and Internet Troubleshooting 101*

Date and location:

Wednesday, October 9, 2002, San Francisco Public Library
<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/51>

Provider: **Rural Initiative**

Course: *The Reference Interview:
 Asking All the Right Questions*

Date and videoconference locations:

Friday, November 22
 Butte County Library, Chico
 Siskiyou County Library
 Colusa County Library
 Plumas County Library
 Camarena Memorial Library, Calexico
 Contact: Dan Theobald, Principal Consultant
 i2i Communications
 415-431-0329 , dtheobald@i2icom.com

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *Desktop Publishing on a Shoestring*

Dates and locations:

Thursday, October 31, San Francisco Public Library
 Wednesday, December 4, San Diego Public Library
 Wednesday, December 18, San Jose Public Library
<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/105>



If you would like your library-related training event included in *Connection*, please send event information to Sarah Dalton, *Connection* editor at sdalton@library.ca.gov

calendar of events

October**October 13-19, 2002**

Teen Read Week

November**November 13-16, 2002**

California School Library Association (CSLA), Annual Conference, Sacramento

November 15-18, 2002

California Library Association (CLA), Annual Conference, Sacramento

November 19, 2002

Library of California board meeting, Sacramento

2003**January****January 24-29, 2003**

American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia

March**March 6-8, 2003**

Public Library Association Spring Symposium, Chicago

April**April 6-12, 2003**

National Library Week

April 10-13, 2003Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL),
11th National Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina**May****May 2-7, 2003**

Medical Library Association (MLA) Annual Conference, San Diego

June**June 7-12, 2003**

Special Libraries Association (SLA) Annual Conference, New York City

June 19-25, 2003

American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada

July**July 12-16, 2003**

American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), Annual Conference, Seattle

October**October 22-26, 2003**American Association of School Librarians (AASL)
National Conference, Kansas City, Missouri**November****November 15-17, 2003**

California Library Association (CLA) Annual Conference, Ontario

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and the Library of California.**Dr. Kevin Starr***State Librarian***(916) 654-0174****kstarr@library.ca.gov****Sarah Dalton***Communications**Editor***(916) 654-1483****sdalton@library.ca.gov****Christopher Berger***Library Development Services**Assistant Editor***(916) 653-8313****cberger@library.ca.gov****Library of California Board****Victoria Fong***President*Articles for inclusion in a
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